

What is claimed is:

1. A method of interacting with an icon displayed on a touch screen in an electronic device, the electronic device capable of carrying a command symbolized by the icon and
5 further capable of providing a message associated with the command, wherein the icon is displayed at a designated area of the screen so as to allow a user to interact with the icon by using a physical object, said method comprising the steps of:
 - 1) contacting the screen at the designated area by the physical object; and
 - 2) removing the physical object from the screen before a selected time has expired
10 to cause the electronic device to carry out the command, or
 - 3) keeping the physical object at the designated area longer than the selected time to cause the electronic device to provide the message.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
15 4) removing the physical object from the screen after step 3 to cause the electronic device to carry out the command, or
- 5) moving the physical object off the designated area while keeping the physical object substantially on the screen after step 3 to end the message.
- 20 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
 - 6) removing the physical object from the screen after step 5; or
 - 7) moving the physical object to a further designated area after step 5 for causing the electronic device to provide a message associated with the further designated area.
- 25 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:
 - 8) removing the physical object from the screen after step 7 to cause the electronic device to carry out a command associated with the further designated area.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the provided message comprises a text message.
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6. The method of claim 5, wherein the text message is displayed on the screen.
7. An electronic device capable of carrying out a plurality of commands, comprising:

a screen having a plurality of designated areas for displaying a plurality of icons symbolizing the commands, so as to allow a user to interact with an icon by using a physical object to contact the screen at the corresponding designated area;

5 a sensing device, operatively connected to the screen to sense the contact of the screen by the physical object, for providing a signal in the electronic device indicative of said contacting, and

means, responsive to the signal, for carrying out further steps, such that

10 if the physical object is removed from the screen after contacting said designated area but before a selected time has expired, said means carries out the command symbolized by said icon, and

if the physical object is kept at said designated area longer than the selected time, said means provides a message associated with said command.

8. The electronic device of claim 7, wherein
15 if the physical object is removed from the screen after the physical object is kept at said designated area longer than the selected time and the message is provided, said means carries out the symbolized command, and

20 if the physical object is moved off said designated area after the message is provided while the physical object is kept substantially on the screen, said means ends the message.

9. The electronic device of claim 8, wherein
if the physical object is moved to a further designated area after the physical object is moved off said designated area, said means provides a further message
25 associated with the further designated area.

10. The electronic device of claim 9, wherein
when the physical object is removed from the screen after the physical object is moved to the further designated area, said means carries out a command associated with
30 the further designated area.

11. The electronic device of claim 7, wherein the message is provided in a text bubble displayed on the screen.

12. The electronic device of claim 7, further comprising an audio device so that the message is provided in an audible form via the audio device.
- 5 13. A series of specific operational steps expressible in a plurality of computer codes to be executed by a data processing means in an electronic device having a screen, the electronic device capable of carrying out a plurality of commands, said series comprising:
- 10 a code for generating a plurality of icons symbolizing the commands, the icons displayed at a plurality of designated areas on the screen so as to allow a user to interact with an icon by using a physical object to contact the screen at the corresponding designated area; and
- a code, responsive to said user interaction, for
- causing the electronic device to carry out the command symbolized by said icon, if the physical object is removed from the screen after contacting said
- 15 designated area but before a selected time has expired, the electronic device is caused to carry out the command symbolized by said icon, and
- causing the electronic device to provide a message associated with said command, if the physical object is kept at said designated area longer than the selected time.
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14. The series of claim 13, further comprising
- a code for causing the electronic device to carry out the symbolized command, if the physical object is removed from the screen after the physical object is kept at said designated area longer than the selected time and the message is provided, and causing
- 25 the electronic device to end the message if the physical object is moved off said designated area after the help message is provided while the physical object is kept substantially on the screen.
15. The series of claim 14, further comprising
- 30 a code for causing the electronic device to provide a further message associated with a further designated area if the physical object is moved to the further designated area after the physical object is moved off said designated area.